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Largely provided with everything, they had only to thank the English authorities for their kind attention; but it might have been otherwise, and the Expedition has escaped a great misfortune. After the cargo was landed, a fire broke out in the fore-part of the 'Yeddo,' which brought out the Expedition, and the identical portion of the vessel in which all the astronomical packages had been stored was burnt.

"M. Fleuriais, who left France on July 5, arrived at Shanghai on August 18. His astronomical stores appear to have suffered no injury either from transhipment or the sea voyage. M. Fleuriais left immediately for Tien-tsin. The presence of a French despatch-boat, the 'Couleuvre,' will serve as a protection to him.

"M. Mouchez writes from Mauritius, where he intended to remain a week to rate his chronometers. The naturalists attached to the Expedition have profited by the delay to make an excursion into the interior of the island. Our officers have established excellent relations with Lord Lindsay, who has left England provided with a considerable equipment, and who will observe the transit at Mauritius. The astronomer of Lord Lindsay (Mr. Gill) has offered to M. Mouchez the loan of twenty chronometers, to enable him to make an exact determination of the longitude of St. Paul with respect to Mauritius.

"M. Mouchez expected to leave on September 2 for his station on the island of St. Paul. We have already remarked that this island is only a volcanic rock, wild, uncultivated, and lost in the great Southern Ocean. From the information gathered by M. Mouchez, the general state of the weather in those regions, especially in December, is deplorable. But he says that he shall find great facilities for the establishment of his Observatory from the wood cast ashore by the sea from the numerous shipwrecks of which this island is the witness. What a prospect, and what resources!"

On the Observations of Flora, made with a view of determining the Solar Parallax. By Dr. Galle.

(*Extract from a Letter to the Astronomer Royal.*)

"As I availed myself of your kindness last year, in recommending that observations should be made of the planet *Flora*, in the Southern hemisphere, with the view of using the same for a determination of the value of the solar parallax, I could not omit briefly to inform you that these observations have been carried out accordingly, and have furnished a very satisfactory result.

"Thanks to the co-operation of three Southern Observatories

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(Cape of Good Hope, Melbourne, and Cordoba), and nine observations in the Northern hemisphere, there have been so many corresponding observations, that results for the parallax could be obtained from 43 different comparison-stars. The mean differs very little from the *Mars* observations of 1862, and from the result of Newcomb ($\pi=8''{\cdot}85$). The definitive result, however, cannot be assigned for some months, on account of a number of discordant observations, in regard to which some enquiries must be made of the observers."*

Breslau.
October 21.

Proposed Observatory at Bogotà, South America.

M. Gonzalez, Director of the National Observatory of Columbia, announced at the meeting that it was his intention to establish a Physical Astronomical Observatory at Bogotà, the capital of that State, at an altitude of about 3,000 mètres above the level of the sea, and in latitude 4° 30′ N. On account of the transparency of the atmosphere, M. Gonzalez believes that this observatory will be most favourably situated for delicate observations, such as the spectrum analysis of the heavenly bodies, especially of the Sun, the Zodiacal Light, &c. He intends to give up the direction of the National Observatory, so that he may be able to devote his whole attention, free from the control of the Government authorities, to this peculiar class of physical observation. M. Gonzalez expressed a desire that his private observatory might be considered as, in some measure, a dependence of this Society and the British Association, and he would therefore be happy to receive any suggestions from the leading Fellows as to the best means of utilising the observations which he hopes to make in such an exceptionally elevated locality. He is most desirous to carry out any recommendations he may receive so far as his resources will permit. M. Gonzalez will be assisted by his brother, as well as by a friend who is devotedly attached to the science.—[E. D.]

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* It appears from Dr. Galle's paper in the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 2012, that the result obtained from the whole of the 43 stars is $8''{\cdot}923$. He proposes to omit all the observations where the discordance exceeds $0''{\cdot}75$, which would give $8''{\cdot}858$ as the resulting value for the solar parallax from a comparison of the observations of the planet and 30 stars (15 in each hemisphere). This selection, however, is at present quite arbitrary.

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